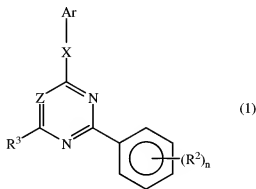


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

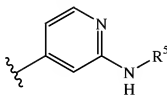
1. (currently amended): A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

Ar represents an optionally substituted 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl, indolyl, 2- or 4-pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl, benzotriazol or benzimidazolyl,

with a proviso that optionally substituted Ar is not



wherein  $R^5$  is H, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (2-6C), alkynyl (2-6C), an aromatic or heteroaromatic moiety containing 5-11 ring members;

X is  $NR^1$ , or S;

$R^1$  is H, alkyl (1-8C), alkenyl (2-8C), or alkynyl (2-8C);

Z represents  $CR^4$ ;

each of  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, NR-aroyl, or the hetero forms of any of the foregoing, halo, OR,  $NR_2$ , SR, -SOR, -NRSOR, -NRSO<sub>2</sub>R, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -OCOR, -NRCOR, -NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, -NR<sub>2</sub>COOR, -OCONR<sub>2</sub>, -COOR, -SO<sub>3</sub>R, -CONR<sub>2</sub>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -CF<sub>3</sub>, or -NO<sub>2</sub>, wherein each R is independently H or alkyl (1-10C);

wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl or aryl groups contained in  $R^3$  and/or  $R^4$  may contain one or more heteroatoms and/or optionally be further substituted;

each  $R^2$  is independently-alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, NR-aroyl, or the hetero forms of any of the foregoing, halo, OR,  $NR_2$ , SR, -SOR, -NRSOR, - $NRSO_2R$ , - $SO_2R$ , -OCOR, -NRCOR, -NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, -NRCOOR, -OCONR<sub>2</sub>, -COOR, - $SO_3R$ , -CONR<sub>2</sub>, - $SO_2NR_2$ , -CN, -CF<sub>3</sub>, or -NO<sub>2</sub>, wherein each R is independently H or lower alkyl (1-4C), wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl or aryl groups contained in  $R^2$  may contain one or more heteroatoms and/or may optionally be further substituted;

wherein the hetero forms of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, or NR-aroyl, is an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, or NR-aroyl that contains 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S within the backbone residue; and

n is 0-5.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended): The compound of claim 1, wherein the substituents on the aromatic moiety of Ar are selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, NR-aroyl, or the hetero forms of any of the foregoing, halo, OR,  $NR_2$ , SR, -SOR, -NRSOR, - $NRSO_2R$ , - $SO_2R$ , -OCOR, -NRCOR, -NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, -NRCOOR, -OCONR<sub>2</sub>, -COOR, - $SO_3R$ , -CONR<sub>2</sub>, - $SO_2NR_2$ , -CN, -CF<sub>3</sub>, and -NO<sub>2</sub>, wherein each R is independently H or alkyl (1-10C), and wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl or aryl moieties contained in the substituent may contain one or more heteroatoms and/or may further be substituted by the foregoing substituents;

and wherein the hetero forms of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, or NR-aroyl, is an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, or NR-aroyl that contains 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S within the backbone residue.

5. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein Ar is optionally substituted indolyl, benzimidazolyl, pyridazinyl, benzotriazol or 2-pyridyl.
6. (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein n is 0-3.
7. (original): The compound of claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is H or lower alkyl (1-4C).
8. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein each R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is independently H, alkyl (1-10C), OR, SR or NR<sub>2</sub> wherein R is H or alkyl (1-10C), each optionally substituted.
9. (original): The compound of claim 8, wherein said optional substituent is an aromatic moiety or a heterocyclic moiety, each optionally substituted.
10. (original): The compound of claim 9, wherein at least one of R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is H.
11. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is independently alkyl, alkoxy, or halo.
12. (original): The compound of claim 11, wherein each R<sup>2</sup> is independently halo.
13. (original): The compound of claim 4, wherein the substituents on the aromatic moiety of Ar are selected from the group consisting of alkyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, NR-aryl, and N-alkylaryl wherein any alkyl or aryl contained in said substituent may further optionally be substituted.
14. (previously presented): The compound of claim 13, wherein said aromatic moiety of Ar includes 0, 1 or 2 substituents.

15. (previously presented): The compound of claim 14, wherein said aromatic moiety of Ar includes 0 or 1 substituents.

16. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein each  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  is independently H, CN, COOR, OR, SR,  $NR_2$ , alkyl (1-6C), acyl (1-6C), aryl, aryloxy, arylalkyloxy, wherein R is H or alkyl (1-10C) and wherein any alkyl or aryl portions of said substituents may further be substituted with the foregoing.

17. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein X is NH.

18. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein Ar is optionally substituted 3-pyridyl, 4-pyrimidyl, or 2-pyrimidyl.

19. (previously presented): The compound of claim 1, wherein Ar is optionally substituted 4-pyridyl.

20. (canceled)

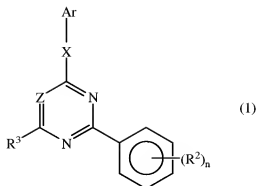
21. (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound of claim 1 in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

22. (previously presented) The compound of claim 17, wherein n is 1 or 2.

23. (canceled)

24. (new): The compound of claim 14, wherein said aromatic moiety of Ar includes 1 or 2 substituents.

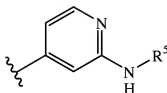
25. (new): A method to treat fibrosis of the liver, which method comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of the compound of formula (1)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; wherein

Ar represents an optionally substituted 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl, indolyl, 2- or 4-pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl, benzotriazol or benzimidazolyl,

with a proviso that optionally substituted Ar is not



wherein  $R^5$  is H, alkyl (1-6C), alkenyl (2-6C), alkynyl (2-6C), an aromatic or heteroaromatic moiety containing 5-11 ring members;

X is  $NR^1$ , or S;

$R^1$  is H, alkyl (1-8C), alkenyl (2-8C), or alkynyl (2-8C);

Z represents  $CR^4$ ;

each of  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  is independently H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, NR-aroyl, or the hetero forms of any of the foregoing, halo, OR,  $NR_2$ , SR, -SOR, -NRSOR, -NRSO<sub>2</sub>R, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -OCOR, -NRCOR, -NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, -NR<sub>2</sub>COOR, -OCONR<sub>2</sub>, -COOR, -SO<sub>3</sub>R, -CONR<sub>2</sub>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -CF<sub>3</sub>, or -NO<sub>2</sub>, wherein each R is independently H or alkyl (1-10C);

wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl or aryl groups contained in  $R^3$  and/or  $R^4$  may contain one or more heteroatoms and/or optionally be further substituted;

each  $R^2$  is independently-alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, NR-aroyl, or the hetero forms of any of the foregoing,

halo, OR, NR<sub>2</sub>, SR, -SOR, -NRSOR, -NRSO<sub>2</sub>R, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -OCOR, -NRCOR, -NRCONR<sub>2</sub>, -NRCOOR, -OCONR<sub>2</sub>, -COOR, -SO<sub>3</sub>R, -CONR<sub>2</sub>, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -CF<sub>3</sub>, or -NO<sub>2</sub>, wherein each R is independently H or lower alkyl (1-4C), wherein any alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl or aryl groups contained in R<sup>2</sup> may contain one or more heteroatoms and/or may optionally be further substituted;

wherein the hetero forms of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, or NR-aroyl, is an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, acyl, aryl, alkylaryl, aroyl, O-aryl, O-alkylaryl, O-aroyl, NR-aryl, NR-alkylaryl, or NR-aroyl that contains 1-3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S within the backbone residue; and

n is 0-5.

26. (new): The method of claim 25, wherein said compound of formula (1) is administered as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

27. (new): The method of claim 25, wherein X is NR<sup>1</sup>.